SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH; Sir, it is only because of this leason in fact, it is one of the reasons why we had increased the mark-up • at present. We have three categories of drugs—cate-1, category 2 and category 3. It is mostly in the present categories I am.! thai these essential drugs belong. And because we wanted the manufacturers increase their production of these dro we have increased the mark-up from 40, 55 to 75 per cent and 100 per cent and we expect that more production and more vestment would come.

PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the thrust is to develop the. • ifug industry. I would like to ask the Minister whether they consulted the public sector projects, namely, the HAL and the IDPL in formulating the policy with regard to development °f trje drug industry .

SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH: is a very difficult question to answer. The hon. Member has asked me on n hat aspect I consulted. It is too general. I will not be able to react to it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is top general. You can put a separate question. Now, We go to next Question.

Illegal mining in collieries

*250 SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR;

SHRI BIR BHADRA PRA'lAP SINGH; f

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleas io state;

(a) whethtr it is a fact that illegal mining of coal in various collieries is rampant;

(b) if so, what are the details in regard [hereto;

(c) whether it is also a fact that a terge number of persons have been killed in the course of illegal mining;

-j-The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Bir Bhadra Pratap Singh.

(d) if so, what is the total number of deaths which occurred on this account during the last two years; and

(e) whether any enquiry has been ordered to pro^ie into the illegal mining, and if so, what, are the findings of the enquiry and the action taken against illegal mining operators?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to u) There is no organised illegal coal mining in the leas«-hold areas of the coal companies. However, as the coal in the country is vast, certain persoas at times violate the provisions of law and indulge in illegal extraction of coal, sporadically and stealthily and the nature of the activities is such that no authentic reports about accidents, if any, in -,uch operations will be forthcoming.

The Coal Mines Nationalisation Acts were amended in 1976 making illegal coal mining a cognizable offence, punishable whh imprisonment extending upto 3 years and fine extending upto Rs. 20,000|-. The vires of these amendments have already been upheld by the Supreme Court ' in 1980.

The State Governments have been ask- ' ed to take both punitive and preventive action against the offenders in terms of the Nationalisation Acts read with provisions of the Indian Penal Code. The State Governments in turn had already is-instructions to the District Authorities The Coal Companies have been directed to report the cases of illegal extraction of coal "s and when detected by them to the law enforcing authorities in the Stal Besides, the coal companies in conjunction wilh the State Governments' law enforcing atilhorilies in the Slates conduci regular raids to apprehend offenders. Regular and surprise checks arc also conducted by the coal companies.

SHRi BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH: This statement has oversimplified a very '

complex problem and the solutions suggested in the answer are also very very simple. They cannot deal with the question. We know we are not only importing criminals from Eastern Uttar Pradesh to that area in Bihar but even mafia kings also we have imported from all these places to the area. We know the laws and steps that you have suggested in your answer cannot tackle the problem. Therefore, may I know from the hon. Minister whether there is any collusion between the officials and the criminals? That is why this trade is flourishing so much and the magazines and papers have highlighted this problem. If you do not look closely to the problem from the point of view of official collaboration with these criminals, I think you cannot solve the menace.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: To our best knowledge no illegal mining taking place on a substantial scale has come to our notice. But whenever in some remote areas and in isolated patches such mining is done, or sometimes even as mining is closed, some people living nearby operate on that surface and take away some coal for themselves. Such things are being done. But even then we bring it to the notice of the State Government that it is for the State Government authorities to ensure against such operations. If there is any such illegal operation, they must take action against them.

SHRI B1R BHADRA PRATAp SINGH: It has been suggested that under the tegal provision the Nationalisation Act made a penal provision with three years' imprisonment and Rs. 2.0.000 as fine. The sec-cond measure that has been suggesteris that the State Government machinery and officials check and try to entrap these criminals to punish them. The facttfal position you have realised in your reply, but you are concealing the main part of it. May I point out that unless and until you take a serious legislative measure, merely making ^ provision for three years' imprisonment and Rs. 20,000 fme is not going to have any effect? Therefore, these provisions have not yet yielded any effect. May . I know from the hon. Minister whether he is sincerely thinking of legislating on this part of the question which is creating a very serious problem *ia* these two States particularly and also in other States?

SHRI VASANT SATHE; The law is already there. It has to be implemented. Tf there is any lacuna in its impkmenta-tion, we will try to persuade the State Governments to be more strict and to implement the law. There is no need for ' any additional legislation.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: I ana very sorry that the Minister does not take cognisance of the fact that illegal mining is on the rise. It is the complaint from all quarters. There ar© a number of reports on this also. Therefore, it ig not true to say that it is only sporadic in nature.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No. I will repeat what the Minister has said. He has said no illegal large-scale mining has come, to-his knowledge. '.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: That is the point. £ lay emphasis oa the word 'large-scale'. It is not a law and order problem only. It is eating into the vitals of our national economy. It is very unfortunate that the situation has not drawn notice 0f the Government and the Minister in particular. »

Anyway, I would like to know from the Minister, since there has been a t°fal failure to check illegal mining, whether he will come up with a proposal to the West Bengal and the Bihar Governments to have a joint meeting along with the representatives 0f the Government of India and the CISF, because you have deployed the CISF in the coal-mining areas to beat down the trade unions, not to track-down the people .who -at© holding the whole are-a t0 ransom. Therefore, it should be a joint effort of the Government of West Bengal, the Government of Bihar, the Government of India and the CISF. I would like to know whether you are going to consider this proposal seriouslv. Sir, part fb) May I know whether...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Two minutes are already over. Please sit down.

SHRi VASANT SATHE: Sir, we will consider -suggestions of the hon. Member.

SHR[JAGESH DESAI: Sir, may I know from the Minister whether the Government have received any complaints with regard to illegal mining of coal? If this kind of activities are carried on we are al] equally concerned. After receiving complaints by the Ministry of Energy, I would like to know whether these have beeₙ forwarded to the concerned State Governments. If so, what action they have takeₙ °n these complaints?

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Sir, some complaints were r-eceived and we have brought it t₀ the notice of the concerned State Government and they are enquiring into those matters.

श्री राम चन्द्र विकल : सभापति महोदय, मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूं कि जो मौतें इन दो वर्षों के अंदर हुई है उसके बारे में वे क्या कोई जांच बिठायेंगे कि वे मौतें किस जगह पर हुई हैं, वैध जगह पर हुई हैं या अवैध जगह पर हुई हैं? क्या मंत्री जी इस प्रकार की कोई जांच बिठाने को तैयार हैं ताकि इस बारे में लोगों के मन में जो शंकाएं हैं वे दूर हो सकें?

श्री वसन्त साठे : इसकी जांच हो रही है। दो-तीन जगहों पर जो दो-तीन लोगों की मृत्यु हुई हैं इसकी जांच राज्य सरकार के मातहत है।

श्री रामचन्द्र विकल : वैध जगह पर हुई हैं या अवैध जगह पर?

श्री वसन्त साठे : कुछ अवैध जगह पर भी हुई हैं और उनकी जांच हो रही है।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next Question.

*251. *[The questioner (Shri Parvathv-Upendra) was absent. For answer* vide *cols.* 31—36 infra.]

*252. *[The questioner (Shri Sunil Ktt-nuir PattncAk) was absent. For answer,* vide *cots.* infra.]

Loan assistance by West Germaa financial! institution

T*253. SHRI BIP BHADRA PRATAP SINGH; Will the 'mster ₀f ENERGY be pleased to states—

(a) whether Government h'avₑ received furt'ner loan assistance during the. yᵉᵃᶠ for its various mining projects' from the KFW—a Government of West Germany financial institution;-

(b) if so, the total amount ₀f increased loan to be rectlved under the latest programme of loan assistance; and

(c) what steps are being taken *o ensure that the foreign exchange under suck schemes of loan assistance is not misused by any undertaking?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) During 1986-87 and (this year, KFW assistance was received only for the projects of Nevveli Lignite Corpo ration. In January 1987, Government of India signed a :eement for DM_ 180f million with KFW for the'NLC pro-' jects. This yeaᵣ (1987-88) KFW has. agreed to reserve another DM 110 million for NLC's projects. Loan Agreement covering this amount of DM 110 million and an additional amount of DM 110 million committed in 1986-87 is expected to be concluded this year. '

(c)The loan is utilised in accordance with the rules of the Government and.tke -

@Previously Starred Question 233, transferred from the 30th April, 1987.